(b) while no application were called for the allotment of LPG distributorship during 1986, applications for a total of 18 Retail Outlet and 15 SKO LDO dealership were called for during that year out of which six dealerships each for petrol/diesel Retail Outlets, Kerosene agencies were pending finalisation as on July 31, 1988. As various steps precede the actual commissioning of a distributorship/dealership, it is not feasible to indicate the exact time by which these would be commissioned;

(c) except for a reservation of 25% for SC/ST category, there is no separate reservation for Muslims or minorities in the allotment of distributorships/dealerships for LPG, Petrol/Diesel and Kerosene. Hence no statistics on them are maintained.

Requirement of L.P.G. Cylinders

4505. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the approximate requirement of Gas cylinders by oil companies in the country at present :

(b) whether Government are aware that gas cylinders produced by the factories situated in 'No Industry Districts' are cheaper in comparison to those produced in other sectors;

(c) if so whether Government are giving any preference to the factories situated in 'No Industry Districts' while placing orders;

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether any memorandum in this regard had been received by Government in the past and if so, what action has been taken thereon;

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) : (a) The oil industry's requirement of LPG cylinders for the year 1988-89 is approx. 25 lakhs;

(b) to (e) The basic price of LPG cylinders is common to all cylinder manufacturers; the final price of cylinders, however, may vary marginally on account of sales tax exemption/loan facilities extended by the State Governments to the units situated in 'No Industry Districts'. While representations have been received from a few cylinder manufacturers in this regard, orders for cylinders are being placed by the oil industry with the various cylinder manufacturers, keeping in view the overall production capacity available in this sector as well as the oil industry's requirement.

Privatisation of Loss-incurring Public Sector Units

4506. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a final decision to privatise inefficient public sector units which are continuously incurring losses;